

**TODAY'S PRICES**

Mexican bank notes, state bills, 10%  
17c; pesos, 59c; Mexican gold, 52c;  
maquilas, 19c; bar silver, 11c; 100  
maquilas, 77c; copper, 22c; 100  
maquilas, 11c; livestock, steady, stock  
lower.

LATEST NEWS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.

SINGLE COPY, FIVE CENTS

EL PASO, TEXAS, MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26, 1917.

DELIVERED ANYWHERE 40c A MONTH

HOME EDITION

WEATHER FORECAST.  
El Paso and West Texas, fair, New  
Mexico, fair, colder. Arizona, fair,  
colder.

FOURTEEN PAGES TODAY.

# WILSON ASKS USE OF ARMED NEUTRALITY

## Wilson Asks U.S. Aid In Food Problem

### PROPOSED LA CONCHA IS SUNK; 14 KILLED

**\$3,000,000 IS URGED**

**Indiana Pleads For Cars For Shipments of Grain to the Eastern Markets.**

**NEW YORKERS ARE TOLD TO EAT RICE**

**Department of Health States Poor Should Be Educated To Buy Intelligently.**

**WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.**—Appropriation of \$3,000,000 for federal relief in the present food situation and future investigation to devise better marketing and distribution methods, was proposed in a resolution introduced today by Senator Borah, of Idaho. Action upon the resolution was deferred.

Delegations from the Indiana public service commission and the Indianapolis board of trade today requested the car service commission of the American Railway association to use its utmost endeavors to supply Indianapolis with a larger number of cars for the shipment of grain products. Assurances were given that all that could be done to relieve the situation at Indianapolis would be done as speedily as possible by the railroads.

**East Rice, N. Y. Urges.**

**New York, Feb. 26.**—A campaign of education against high food prices was extended today.

The mayor's food supply committee sent to homes throughout the city by means of public school children 1,000 instead of potatoes, onions and cabbage. Enough rice is available at a low price to afford relief until the situation is better.

**Less Rent Than Usual.**

The department of health, in a report to the mayor, declared that there was less dependency than usual in the city than had been common for many years past.

At the same time, the department reported that families whose income was \$300 a year or less would suffer by their inability to buy sufficient quantities of food at the present prices. The report said that the poor should be educated to buy food more intelligently and said the well-to-do should contribute toward this education "by altering habits of carelessness and extravagance in their homes."

**Potatoes Rise in Value \$100 a Mile As They Go East, Farmers Discover**

**Gaston, Ore., Feb. 26.**—Farmers in this district have discovered that potatoes increased in value at the rate of \$100 a mile as they traveled to the east. A car of 855 sacks, standing on the track here, is worth \$100 more than it was when it left the New York market its value rises to \$600.

Farmers last week received the highest price yet paid for potatoes here, \$2.25 a hundredweight. Eighteen cars are en route and loading and many growers are holding for higher prices.

**SAN FRANCISCO TO FORCE FOOD OUT OF STORAGE**

**San Francisco, Calif., Feb. 26.**—The whole force of the city administration will be enlisted, it was announced today, in an effort to find out exactly what food stocks are being held here in cold storage. City officials said that had been informed that local cold storage warehouses were packed with the very food products that are being sold at famine prices on the plea that the supply is short.

The board of supervisors, department of health, bureau of weights and measures and the police department will start at once a combined survey, it was announced, of the food supply on hand and wherever it is found that accumulations have been made for the purpose of cornering the market, measures will be adopted to force that particular product into the market at a reasonable price.

**24 BALTIMORE TRUCKS GO OUT TO BUY PRODUCE**

**Baltimore, Md., Feb. 26.**—Twenty-four trucks of the city department were sent out in the country surrounding Baltimore today to gather in farm products in an effort by the city to help smash the corners in foodstuffs.

Mayor Preston said that he expected to cut 25 per cent off the cost to the consumers.

**One Small Ad In Herald Sells \$16,000 Worth of Realty**

**Editor El Paso Herald:**  
DURING the past week we placed a small classified ad in your paper which brought us a reply from A. L. Taylor, of Taylor Bros. company, of Chihuahua, Mexico, which resulted in a sale to Mr. Taylor of four pieces of El Paso residence property, at a total value of \$16,000. The Herald surely brings results.

Cred Realty Company.  
By K. B. Creel.

**FIGHT GERMAN? NO, SAYS TEXAN**

**Representative Callaway Asks Soldiers as Violators of the Law.**

**Boston, Mass., Feb. 26.**—Congressman Callaway of Texas is not one of those who backs up the president's stand regarding submarine warfare without any reservations. In a speech at a mass meeting here yesterday he opposed a declaration of war with Germany and criticized the American soldier as a violator of civilized laws.

**Would Be Like a Hanging.**

Declaration of war against Germany, he said, would be like "a hanging where everybody in the mob wants to get a whack at the victim. Of course," he continued, "an injury has been done, but why not be as big nationally as individually?"

"Had we not better stand by ourselves than stand by the president?" the speaker asked, after stating that the citizens would pay the costs of war in taxes. "President Wilson has reached the end of his tether, and it is now up to Congress to act. Let us give them our opinion to help their decision."

**Says Newspapers Not Honest.**

He criticized newspapers as being "not perfectly honest," saying that some were subsidized by munitions makers. "Let the American people speak out and set a Christian example," he said. "Let Congress think that newspapers portray public opinion, and for God's sake, keep these meetings going."

**BRITISH SEIZE KUT-EL-AMARA**

**London, Eng., Feb. 26.**—Kut-el-Amara has been captured from the Turks by the British forces, according to a statement made in the house of commons today by Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war council.

The Turks are in retreat toward Bagdad, 24 miles to the west of Kut-el-Amara, pursued by British cavalry.

Mr. Bonar Law announced that as a result of the operations on the Tigris river front all of the Turkish positions from Samarra to Kut-el-Amara have been secured and that the town of Kut-el-Amara, automatically passed into the hands of the British.

**British Loses 30,000 Men.**

Berlin, Germany, Feb. 26 (wireless to Saville).—According to the official news agency at Constantinople the losses of the British in the recent fighting along the Tigris exceed 30,000 men. Several steamships crowded with wounded British soldiers have been sent away, the news agency says.

**Kut-el-Amara, a strategic military position on the Tigris river leading to Bagdad was surrendered to the Turks April 28, 1916, after Gen. Townshend with a British force of some 10,000 troops had withstood siege since the previous December.**

**ARMY AVIATORS GO TO FRANCE**

**San Diego, Calif., Feb. 26.**—Lieuts. J. F. Carberry, Millard F. Harmon, Jr. and Davenport Johnson, army aviators who have been ordered to France for special training in military aeronautics, are graduates of the North Island aviation school here. Friends of the three here said today that the officers would proceed to the famous aviation school at Buc for instruction in piloting single seated battleplanes equipped with machine guns.

**GO TO BUY PRODUCE**

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**When El Paso Visiting, Arizona and New Mexico Know We've Come**

**GIBBONS WELL KNOWN LOCALLY**

**Chicago Tribune Man, on Laconia, Had Covered Mexican Developments.**

**Floyd P. Gibbons, of the Chicago Tribune, who was a passenger on the torpedoed liner Laconia, was in El Paso about one month ago with Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, when the late southern department commander made his last trip through El Paso inspecting the border patrol. He had made the entire trip along the border with Gen. Funston and accompanied him to Colonia Dublan when he visited Gen. Pershing and inspected the punitive expedition. Gibbons left Gen. Funston's party at El Paso, returning to Chicago, Ill., to prepare for his European trip. He had been ordered to England by the Tribune to take charge of its London office.**

**Gibbons had visited El Paso frequently during the last three years and was one of the best known of the eastern newspaper correspondents who have covered the Mexican revolutionary developments. He came to the border in 1914 and covered the Naco battle. He later made a trip through Mexico and was the only correspondent attached to the Villa headquarters during Villa's campaign in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and eastern Mexico. He was at the battle of Colima with Villa when the latter was defeated by Obregon and had a narrow escape in this battle.**

When the punitive expedition entered Mexico, Gibbons accompanied Gen. Pershing's troops across the border. He was with the 12th cavalry expedition which was engaged in battle at the battle of Colima with Villa when the latter was defeated by Obregon and had a narrow escape in this battle.

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**TEN OR MORE AMERICANS ON LINER**

**Survivors Said To Number 270; One Person Known To Have Lost Life.**

**SURVIVORS WILL LAND TONIGHT**

**Torpedoed Without Warning, Is Official Announcement About Tragedy.**

**LONDON, Eng., Feb. 26.**—It is announced officially that the Cunard liner Laconia, the sinking of which had been previously announced, was torpedoed without warning.

Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, telegraphed the American embassy here today:

"Cunarder Laconia torpedoed 10:50 Sunday night. Two hundred and seventy-eight survivors landed. Details lacking, but known some missing, one dead."

**QUEENSTOWN, Ireland, Feb. 26.**—The Cunard liner steamship Laconia, 18,000 tons gross, which sailed from New York February 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk. The Laconia carried 100 passengers, of whom ten or more were Americans.

Survivors are said to number 270. They will be landed tonight.

**Only One Casualty Known.**

**New York, Feb. 26.**—The Cunard line announced at 1:36 p. m. that it had received confirmation from the British admiralty of the destruction of the Laconia and that the advices stated there was only one casualty thus far known, a death.

Twenty Americans, all native born, were members of the crew of the Laconia.

**Carried 5000 Sacks of U. S. Mail.**

Five thousand sacks of United States mail were carried by the Laconia, of which 1200 were transferred from the American liner St. Louis when it was sunk. The mail was in the hold of the ship.

Many valuable securities and documents sent by American business firms were said to be in the St. Louis mail bags.

**201 on Board.**

The Laconia was one of the largest vessels of the Cunard fleet and the largest that had sailed since the new German submarine warfare was commenced. She registered 18,000 tons, was 600 feet long, 71 feet beam and 35 feet draft. She was built in 1911 at Newcastle, and was commanded by Capt. W. P. D. Irvine.

First cabin passengers aboard the Laconia, on file in the office of the British shipping commissioner here, contains the following names:

Mr. Frank, Baltimore; H. Smith, Louisville; E. M. Shupler, J. T. Williams, R. Redie, R. Cleveland, F. Smith, J. Pumphrey, J. D. Hall, J. Leonard, J. Bowman, D. Adamson, H. Shepherd, J. Johnson, E. Young, Donald, R. Carter, T. Coffey, A. Dwyer and C. Newburg, all of New York city.

**TWO MERCHANT SHIPS REACH N. Y., TRAVELING WAR ZONE**

**New York, Feb. 26.**—Two freight steamships, the Falkland, Norwegian, from Manchester, and the Manxman, British, from Genoa, arrived here today after passing through the German submarine zone.

The St. Louis, St. Paul, Philadelphia, New York and Koonland are at their New York docks, the line having declined to send them out until the government furnished armament as demanded by the Germans.

The Finland, of the same line, is on her way from Europe to this port.

All the ships are passenger vessels but the Koonland is to be turned into a freighter.

**AMERICAN FREIGHTER ORLEANS REACHES FRANCE SAFELY**

**Paris, France, Feb. 26.**—The American freighter Orleans has been sighted entering the mouth of the Gironde, according to a Bordeaux dispatch to the Havas agency. The Orleans will dock tomorrow morning.

**GERMANS WIELDED GROUND INVEST**

**Fall Back During Fog and British Advance Several Miles; Take Towns.**

**British Headquarters in France, Feb. 26.**—Under cover of fog and mist the Germans carried out the greatest retirement they have made on the western front in the last two years and the British have occupied Pys, Serre, Miraumont and Petit Miraumont, including Butte le Warlencourt, which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. The positions which already have fallen into the British hands have stood out in the history of the fighting on this front and had been most stubbornly defended. Only a week ago, the British attacked on two mile front east and south of Miraumont, the German resistance was bitter and the high ground desired was won only after day-long hand to hand encounters and the taking of more than 300 German prisoners.

**May Force Evacuation of Bapaume.**

It can be stated that the British now, or soon will be in a position possibly to force the evacuation of Bapaume, which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. The positions which already have fallen into the British hands have stood out in the history of the fighting on this front and had been most stubbornly defended. Only a week ago, the British attacked on two mile front east and south of Miraumont, the German resistance was bitter and the high ground desired was won only after day-long hand to hand encounters and the taking of more than 300 German prisoners.

**German Dashed to Retreat.**

The British had been waiting for a clearing of the foggy weather before pressing the advance, but meantime it is apparent that the German high command decided to retire without any further fighting to stronger positions beyond the Pys, Miraumont and advanced all along the line, meeting only with slight resistance here and there.

Sunday the British patrols pressed forward, keeping in close contact with the Germans, who had retreated a further 2000 yards during the night. Thus the way was opened to the ground which for months had been contested.

There were bursts of stiff resistance from German obstructing parties which were easily broken up by the British.

Early Sunday a big mine exploded in the main street of Miraumont just before the British advance patrols entered.

**FRENCH AIRSHIP SUNK; 14 KILLED**

**Berlin, Germany, Feb. 26.**—Forteen men were killed by the destruction of the French airship reported to have been brought down by the German defensive fire.

The official report says: "The French airship brought down on Friday night was set ablaze by our anti-aircraft fire. It fell in flames near Weerlingen, west of Saarbrunn, (in Lorraine). When it dived the ammunition which it carried exploded. The crew of 14 men was killed."

**SAYS GERMANY'S AIM IS TO PREVENT COMMERCE**

**Amsterdam, Holland, Feb. 26.**—In an interview in the Tageliche Rundschau, Albert Ballin, director general of the Hamburg-American line, says Germany can be most highly satisfied with the success so far of unrestricted submarine warfare. Herr Ballin said the object of the campaign was not to sink ships but to stop commerce with England and that this had been fully attained as neutral traffic is stagnating.

Referring to the German policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, Herr Ballin said a treaty existed between Germany and America which did not allow contraband and that he had no reason to assume that the United States would not observe this treaty. President Wilson, he added, had based the rupture of diplomatic relations on Germany's law and therefore he considered it quite impossible that the president would himself disregard international agreements.

**LATIN-AMERICA WOULD MEDIATE TO END WAR**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina, Feb. 26.**—According to La Nacion, the Argentine government is endeavoring to bring about a settlement of the Latin-American republics in offering mediation for ending the war. The United States will not be asked to take part because of its rupture with Germany. Negotiations with the diplomatic representatives here of other Latin-American republics will be initiated by Argentina, the newspaper says.

**12,000 BOHEMIAN GYMNASTS TO OFFER SERVICES TO U. S.**

**Chicago, Ill., Feb. 26.**—Members of the Sokol Union of America, an organization of Bohemian gymnasts, 12,000 in number, many of whom have had military training and all of whom have had physical training, today were called on to report to their district officers with a view to forming a Sokol legion to be ready for service should President Wilson call for volunteers.

**PRESIDENT CALLS IN CONGRESS FOR AUTHORITY TO PROTECT U. S.**

**Executive Proposes to Place United States in Position of "Armed Neutrality" to Resist German Submarine Menace; Hopes It Will Not Be Necessary to Put Armed Forces Into Action.**

**WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.**—President Wilson appeared before congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace. Continued invasion of the plain rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American ports—almost as effectual as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act" which was expected to shock the world—and have forced the president into the next step toward war.

President Wilson, asking to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary, which includes the arming of ships, the conveying of merchantmen by war vessels or whatever other steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace but not at the price of American lives and rights, or by driving the American flag from the seas.

Devoutly expressing the hope that it would not become necessary to "put armed force into action," the president specifically asked for authority to supply American merchant ships with defensive arms "with the means of using them," and to "employ any other instrumentalities," as well as "a sufficient credit," to enable him to provide "adequate means of protection."

This, without being specific in terms, was a request for the use of the army and navy and the necessary money to make them effective.

**BILL TO BE INTRODUCED.**

Chairman Flood, of the house foreign affairs committee, announced he would introduce late today a bill granting power to the president to arm ships and all other authority necessary.

**Hears of Laconia Sinking.**

News of the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia with Americans aboard was received here as the president was on his way to address congress. Although without details, its grave attention was given emphasis to the president's words.

Congress is expected not only to authorize the president to use the armed force of the country, but also to provide money.

Once before in the infancy of the republic, a state of armed neutrality was proclaimed to check "pretentious violence" upon American rights in the war between France and England but it did not result actually in war for the United States.

Whether another armed neutrality will mean war depends on whether Germany realizes that the United States is ready to protect its neutral rights by whatever means are necessary.

**Congress Listens Quietly.**

The grim faced body of senators and representatives who less than a month ago heard the president protest which words which announced a severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, heard today in tense silence and grave attention the president's appeal.

American republic a step further in its stand against ruthless sacrifice of neutral rights and lives and a step toward the president's appeal. The president gave his speech to the public printer this morning and then conferred with chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee.

President Wilson arrived at the capital just before 1 o'clock and promptly at that hour stepped up to the rostrum in the hall of the house where both branches of congress were in special joint session, were assembled before him.

**Text of Speech.**

The president's speech follows: "Gentlemen of the congress: "I have again asked the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical time during which it seems to me to be my duty to keep in close touch with the houses of congress so that advice and counsel may be given to the executive at every step. I shall run at cross purposes between us."

On the third of February, I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the imperial German government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to this congress in April last, and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce, whether of belligerents or neutrals, that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe or the harbors of the eastern Mediterranean to conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice and without regard to any considerations of humanity which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice and it has now been active execution for nearly four weeks.

**Our Commerce Is Suffering.**

"Its practical results are not fully disclosed. The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely but not, perhaps, very much more severely than it was already suffering before the first of February, when the new policy of the imperial government was put into operation. We have asked the cooperation of other neutral governments to prevent these depredations and to threaten them with the consequences to join us in any concert of action. Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering rather in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timely keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk."

**Two American vessels have been sunk, the Houstonian and the Lyman M. Law. The case of the Houstonian, which was carrying foodstuffs, is assigned to London, as in the case of the case of the Frye in which it will be recalled, the German government admitted its liability for damages and the lives of the crew, as in the case of the Frye, were safeguarded with reasonable care.**

**Condemns Sinking of Lyman M. Law.**

"The case of the Law, which was carrying lemon box staves to Palermo, disclosed a like ruthlessness of method which deserves grave condemnation, but it was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time in connection with the use of the submarine against merchantmen as the German government has used it."

**Expected at any time in connection with the use of the submarine against merchantmen as the German government has used it.**